

L. 4411 (1) COLCHESTER

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H., Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION
HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM;

AND

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

1944.

Colchester:

WILES AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon) (on Military Service, from 18/9/39)

MRS. W. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon :

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*O. R. WARNER. †*C. J. JACOBI. †*R. F. KNOWL

† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. * Meat Inspector's Certificate. (to 8th May, 1944)

Health Visitors :

*††MISS E. R. SMITH.

†††MRS. M. E. HUNT.

*††MISS M. G. PENNICK.

*††MISS A. E. BICKERDIKE.

*††MISS L. FLETCHER.

Chief Clerk and Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT, A.G.C.S.

Disinfectors :

H. EDWARDS.^a

Rat Catcher :

E. J. V. FOXALL.

^a On Military Service.

Matrons :

Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*†MISS D. COPELIN.

Maternity Home :

*†MRS. F. DENNIS.

War-time Nurseries :

†MRS. K. ANNESLEY.

†MISS M. TYNAN.

* Certified Midwife. † State Registered Nurse. † Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

T. ALEXANDER OGILVIE, F.R.C.S.

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Masseuse :

MISS M. J. BOYCK, C.S.M.M.G., M.E., L.E.T.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :

A. H. MITCHELL MUTER, F.I.C.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1944-45.

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,

ALDERMAN A. W. PIPER, J.P.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., D.L., C.A.

Deputy-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

Members :

COUNCILLOR W. ALLEN.

COUNCILLOR J. CHASE.

COUNCILLOR A. CRAIG.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICKE.

COUNCILLOR MISS K. E. SANDERS, R.R.C., J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND, J.P., and

²MRS. K. L. PEARTREE.

HEALTH OFFICES,
TRINITY STREET,
8th Aug., 1915.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Colchester.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1914.

The war in Europe has ended and the population figure is again given in this Report. The figure is an estimate that excludes any troops stationed in the Borough. I have previously drawn attention to the uncertainty of a Death Rate, calculated upon an estimated population, and a population of 44,500 seems low for Colchester, even without the garrison. If the population figure is too low, a Death Rate calculated from it is too high. This appears to be one of the reasons for the unusually high death-rates of recent years in Colchester.

Two rates are extremely good. The Birth Rate is up to 20.25 and the Infantile Mortality Rate down to 33.3. The former is calculated from the population figure and may be too high. The latter is a true figure based upon the actual number of births.

Now that the war is over my time as your Medical Officer of Health draws to a close and I want to take this opportunity of looking ahead and suggesting directions in which the Health Services of the Borough may well be developed.

1. Increased Accommodation for all Clinics.
2. A Resident Medical Officer in the Isolation Hospital.
3. A Lift in the Borough Maternity Home.
4. An Ultra-violet Light Clinic.
5. A sixth Health Visitor is already needed.
6. Accommodation for Premature Infants.

It is obvious that these suggestions will not only need consideration, but all of them will take time to develop. Immediately after a great war is not the time for hurried alterations, but it is the time to consider the future and in what directions changes and improvements are desirable.

I hope to have the opportunity of going more fully into my reasons for the above suggestions with the members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, and, in fact, to report to these Committees generally upon the future of the Health Services.

At the present time great changes are in the air and it appears likely that alterations in the organisation of the Health Services will not be long delayed.

When I look back upon 36 years as your Medical Officer of Health I do so with feelings of great gratitude for the kindness and consideration always shown to me by all members of the Council, and particularly by the chairmen and members of the Committees with which I have been most closely connected. Throughout my years of office my work has been lightened by the consideration always shown to me and the sympathetic interest in the work of the Health Department taken by the chairmen and members of the Health Department Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

I have been extremely fortunate in having the whole-hearted and generous co-operation of my assistants and always the Health Offices have been a very happy community. I am particularly grateful to the two Chief Clerks, Mr. A. Fisher, now the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. R. D. Sargeant, who have been untiring in their work for the Department. My gratitude is also due to the rest of the Office Staff and to the Matrons and staffs of the Isolation Hospital, Maternity Home, and War-Time Nurseries, for most helpful co-operation, particularly during the past five years when times have not been easy. I shall surrender my position with regret as I foresee a future for the Health Department of Colchester to which I had always looked forward.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1944.

*An "Abridged Report" as directed by various Circulars of the
Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Population (R.G. Estimate)	....	....	44,480
Birth Rate (802 Legitimate Births, 99 Illegitimate).			20.25
" " England and Wales	....	....	17.6
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			12.8
" " England and Wales	....	....	11.6
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	....	....	48.3
Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth			
From Sepsis, —.		From other Causes, 1.	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			
Legitimate, 33.7. Illegitimate, 30.3. Total	....	....	33.3
Deaths from Measles	....	....	—
" " Whooping Cough	....	....	2
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	....	....	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	....	....	0.34
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	....	....	0.07
Cancer Death Rate	....	....	2.1

It is no wonder that the accommodation of the Borough Maternity Home has been sorely pressed during the past twelve months, when it is found that the Birth Rate has jumped up nearly 4 whole points. This means that the actual number of births in Colchester increased in 1944 by over 150. The Rate rising from 16.6 to 20.25.

The highest rate recorded was 22.1 in 1920, and the next highest was 20.7 in 1921. The third is this rate of 20.25 in 1944.

The Death Rate no doubt exemplifies the prolonged strain of War. It was again high for Colchester, being 12.8 against 12.5 the previous year. But it must again be pointed out that this rate is not comparable with a pre-war rate as it is based upon a population of only 44,480, excluding the garrison.

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth continues to be very low, only one death being ascribed to this cause.

Similarly the Infantile Mortality Rate continues to be very low and it speaks well for the work of the Health Visitors that the Death Rate of Illegitimate Babies is lower than that of the Legitimate Infants.

In spite of a general rise in the Tuberculosis Death Rate, this has not occurred in Colchester. Although there is a small rise in the number of deaths from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has fallen from 0.49 to 0.34.

There was a rise in the Death-Rate from Cancer from 1.77 to 2.10.

DEATHS OF CIVILIAN RESIDENTS, 1944.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	8	15
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	5	2	7
Cancer of Buccal Cavities and Oesophagus	3	—	3
Cancer of Uterus	—	8	8
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	6	13
Cancer of Breast	2	10	12
Cancer of all other sites	31	26	57
Diabetes	3	2	5
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	26	47	73
Heart Disease	78	71	149
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	12	18
Bronchitis	10	11	21
Pneumonia	4	10	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	4	9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	8	5	13
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2	3
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	4	11	15
Nephritis	9	5	14
Maternal Causes excluding Sepsis	—	1	1
Premature Birth	5	2	7
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	8	3	11
Suicide	2	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5
Other Violent Causes	11	3	14
All Other Causes	30	41	71
	274	295	569

The chief increases in the Causes of Death were due to:—Apoplexy and other Diseases of the Circulatory System, Cancer and Digestive Diseases including Ulcer of the Stomach.

There were decreases from Influenza, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Heart Disease, Pneumonia, Syphilis and Suicide.

It is worth noting, though too much credit must not be taken for the fact that the increases were largely due to disease in which worry and strain take a great part in causation. Whereas the decreases were chiefly in diseases for which control and prevention is possible.

STAFF.

A vacancy occurred in May upon the staff of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, owing to the resignation of Mr. R. F. Knowles, one of the additional sanitary inspectors. Two attempts were made to fill this position and upon each occasion the appointment of another inspector failed owing to the impossibility of finding the applicant suitable housing accommodation. The appointment has therefore been left open until the housing position becomes easier.

Mr. Edwards, the Disinfecter, was absent upon Military Duty until early in 1945, when he returned to take up his old position. In the Army he had held the high non-commissioned officer rank of a Conductor in the Ordnance Corps.

When Mrs. Harries resigned from her position as Matron of Brook St. War-time Day Nursery, Miss Tynan was appointed in her place. Unfortunately Miss Tynan very soon afterwards obtained a much better position and it became necessary to advertise this position again. After some delay Mrs. Gardiner, S.R.N. was appointed.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A third session of the Antenatal Clinic has definitely increased the work in the Laboratory of the Health Offices. Nearly 2,000 more specimens were examined than in 1943, the increase being largely due to specimens of urine from pregnant women, examined at the request of the doctor of the antenatal clinic. A total of 3,954 specimens of various kinds were examined.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic continues to carry out most valuable preventive work. There were actually 400 less initial immunisations but 138 re-immunisations were carried out against 27 re-immunisations in 1943. This work is now part of the routine work of the department and as it becomes more and more appreciated the figures should steadily grow. Somewhere about 75% of the children are now immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC 1944.

Age.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
9-12—5 years ...	8	10	41	32	16	35	27	27	33	63	82	36	410
5—10 years ...	—	—	1	6	1	5	1	—	3	20	36	4	77
10—16 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Adults ...	3	—	3	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	3	14
Total ..	11	10	45	39	17	40	29	28	38	83	120	44	504

Re-immunised—Under 5—31, 5-15—107, Total—138.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Little or no change has occurred during 1944 in the Drainage, Sewerage or Seavenging provisions of the Borough.

No new cesspools or new wells have been constructed during the year, nor have any old ones been abolished. But 13 earth and pail closets were done away with.

Water.

The quality of the water has remained satisfactory. It is bacteriologically examined every month and the results have constantly shewn a pure result and no signs of contamination. Chlorination has been carried out throughout the year as an added precaution.

The whole system was reported upon by the Counties' Public Health Laboratories and both chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out of each source of supply. The opinion arrived at was that the supply affords the consumers a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The quantity supplied to all parts of the Borough has not been quite so satisfactory in some of the outlying parts of the town owing to feeder-mains being too small. Steps are being taken to rectify this as soon as possible.

One of the sources of supply is the Lexden Springs. The plumbo-solvency of this water was counteracted when mixed with the water from the deep bore at the Balkerne Works. However, since the end of 1944, the Lexden water has been pumped direct into the supply system and to counteract the plumbo-solvency caustic soda has been added to the Spring waters.

Almost all the houses in the Borough are directly supplied with water from the public water mains, though there are still a few cottages supplied by means of stand-pipes and in the more rural parts of the Borough some of the houses are supplied by wells.

Sanitary Inspection.*General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.*

Defects found	....	....	1,292
Defects remedied	....	....	1,592
Faetories and Workshops Inspected	....	....	7

Housing.

Floors or walls or eeilings repaired	....	192
Doors or windows provided or repaired	....	124
Ovens or fire-grates repaired	....	29
Stairs repaired	....	10
Rooms eleansed	....	129
Roofs repaired (ineluding rain-pipes and gutters)	....	134
Chimneys repaired or renewed	....	21
Damp houses remedied	....	34
Yards paved or repaired	....	15
Other housing repairs	....	42

Drainage.

Repairs and improvements	....	175
Water elosets provided or repaired	....	134

Other Sanitary Work.

Houses disinfected	....	62
Clothing and other artieles disinfected	....	3,782
Dustbins provided	....	60
Re-visits in eonnection with Sanitary Notices	....
P.H. Aet 2,924, H. Aet 18	....	2,942
Offensive aeeumulations removed	....	6
Pig-keeping nuisanees abated	....	1
Other nuisanees or matters attended to	....	69

The above table shows the large amount of work that the Sanitary Inspectors succeeded in getting done. In spite of war diffieulties and the loss of one of their number actually 1,592 defects were remedied, an inerease of 332 above the number remedied in 1943.

Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations.

Inspections (205) of eowsheds and dairies were regularly carried out. Four contraventions of the orders or regulations were found and correeted.

**Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations,
and Offensive Trades.**

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	24	7
Gut Scraper	1	1
Tallow Melter	1	2
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	7	10
Bone Boiler	1	2
Tripe „	1	1
Total	35	23
Horse Slaughterer	1	1

Ten of the fish-frying businesses remain closed. There has been a reduction of one Rag, Bone and Skin Merchant and an addition of one Tripe Boiler. All these businesses are carried on in a clean and satisfactory manner and no complaints have been received.

Common Lodging Houses.

No complaints or difficulties have arisen concerning the two Common Lodging Houses and both are conducted in a proper and orderly manner.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Dwelling Houses Infested—Council 5, Others 57	62
„ Houses Disinfested—Council 5, Others 57	62
Rooms in these Infested and Disinfested	129

These figures are very much the same as those of the previous year. In addition to the above, 17 premises, such as rooms used by Fire-Guards or as Wardens' Posts, etc., were disinfested and a large number of blankets from similar premises were steam disinfected.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Infestation Order, 1943.

Inspections	3,303.	Premises freed	202
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These Inspections were made by the Rat Operator appointed in 1943 and as a result many additional inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to enforce the necessary repairs of numerous structural defects. In the rat-proofing of premises a great deal of examination and testing of drains has been necessary and the replacement of air-bricks, removal of rubbish heaps, etc., etc. Owners were served with 23 Notices requiring work to be carried out as a result of these inspections.

The poisoning of rats has been regularly carried out and in only a few instances has re-infestation occurred. Many occupiers have expressed great satisfaction with the work of the operator.

The cost of the work is borne by the occupiers (or owners), of the premises infested.

The refuse tip at the Hythe and various Corporation Allotments and Lands have been regularly supervised by the Rat Operator and whenever necessary rat-destruction has been carried out.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1944.

I.—Inspection.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	....	664
Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	....	—
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		596

II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action	481
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

Under Sects. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs....	....	5
Number rendered fit—		
(a) By owners	....	5
(b) By Local Authority in default	....	—

Under Public Health Acts—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs ....	....	70
Number complied with—		
(a) By owners	....	59
(b) By Local Authority in default	....	7

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

....	—
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Part IV of the above Table which recorded Overcrowding in 1935 has been omitted. The figures only led to misunderstanding as they gave no picture of the true position. At the present time there is wide-spread overcrowding throughout the Borough.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises				Number	Inspection
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	see note below	281
Bakehouses	...	...	31	}	27
" Underground	...	...	1		
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	46	124
Cowsheds	...	...	...	33	81

The use of private slaughterhouses is still discontinued.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering for Colchester and the adjoining Districts is carried on at the Ministry of Food Abattoir in the Borough. The Inspection of the whole of the meat at this Abattoir is carried out by the Borough Sanitary Inspectors.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Beasts excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number Inspected	4,523	634	3,864	8,176	1,717	18,914
Whole carcasses condemned for T.B.	33	30	1	—	8	72
Other Conditions	5	1	1	22	27	56

Parts of Carcasses or Organs Condemned.

	Beasts including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Parts of Carcasses	7,552	—	267	621	8,440
Organs	16,071	5	67	2,751	18,894

In addition to the above, 1,320 lbs. of imported Beef and 187 lbs. of imported Pork were condemned.

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was:—

35 tons 17 cwts. 2 qtrs. 18 lbs.

This is 8 tons more than was condemned in the previous year.

The increase is partly due to the fact that over 2,000 more carcasses were inspected than in 1943.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

The following table gives the quantities of "other foods" which were inspected and found to be unfit for human food.

<i>Type of Food.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Butter	142
Bacon	820
Cheese	268
Cooked Meats, etc.	233
Flour	34
Fish	7,486
Ham	676
Cereals	2,870
Sausages	4
Corned Beef	48
Tea	4
Dates	70
Other Foods	126
Biscuits	42
Cake	28
Jam	179
Raisins	25
	<hr/>
	13,055

The total weight of meat and other foods unfit for human food (excluding tinned foods, etc.) was:—

38 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs. 7lbs.

Tinned Milk	467 tins
Other Tinned Foods	910 tins
Paste	42 jars
Xmas Puddings	49
Eggs	782

The above figures are in total very much the same as in 1943, but there is an increase in the amounts of butter, bacon, fish and ham condemned and a diminution in the quantities of cooked meats, flour and vegetables, and a great reduction in the amounts of corned beef and corned mutton condemned.

*Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 to 1943.**Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk.*

Pasteurised	....	....	....	14
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	3
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Accredited (Bottling)	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised, Producer	....	....	....	3
Supplementary	....	....	....	2

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ...	47	8	Fat deficient = 23% (a)
Pasteurised Milk ...	6		" " = 3% (c)
Cake Mixture ...	3		" " = 12% (a)
Baking Powder ...	8		" " = 3% (a)
Coffee Essence ...	1		" " = 4% (b)
Mustard ...	3		" " = 3% (b)
Aspirin ...	3		" " = 9% (a)
Lemon Essence ...	1		" " = 16% (a)
Mixed Spice...	3		
Pudding Mixture ...	2		
Coffee ...	3		(a) Original Sample.
Mixed Pickles ...	1		(b) Course of Delivery Sample.
Fish Paste ...	3		(c) Farm Sample.
Meat Paste ...	1		
Pepper ...	5		
Boracic Ointment ...	1		
Liquorice Powder ...	1		
Camphorated Oil ...	2		
Castor Oil .	1		
Syrup of Figs ...	1		
Lard ...	4		
Butter ...	4		
Margarine ...	4		
Cheese ...	4		
Sugar ...	4		
Tea ...	4		
Bicarbonate Soda ..	1		
Cinnamon ...	1		
Sausage Meat ...	1		
Egg Substitute ...	3	1	65% deficient of CO ₂ .
Vinegar ...	1		
	127	9	

Warnings were sent to the vendors of all the adulterated Milk Samples.

The adulterated Egg Substitute Powder was an informal sample. A subsequent formal sample was found to be genuine.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Particular attention has been given by the Health Visitors to premature and illegitimate children. Their success is well shewn by the low Infantile Mortality Rate, which was only 33.3 per 1,000 live births, and also by the fact that the death rate of illegitimate infants was lower than that of legitimate infants.

There were 1,392 live births, including County children, born in the Borough, a figure far in excess of the figures of recent years, and the Health Visitors paid 9,673 visits to infants and young children, that is 1,252 more visits than in 1943.

In Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, a number of recommendations are set out concerning the care of Premature Infants. Under present circumstances it has not been possible to carry out these recommendations as fully as is desirable. However, strenuous efforts have been made to obtain the services of Home Helps, unfortunately without any great success, but occasionally help has been provided in this way.

When the times become more normal it is particularly desirable that accommodation be provided for premature babies. The weights of infants of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less is now given upon the birth notification cards, as recommended in circular 20/44, and special attention is given to these children. Also premature infants are kept longer than usual in the Maternity Home Nurseries, but unfortunately there is not accommodation in these nurseries to admit additional premature infants from the district.

Under an arrangement with the District Nursing Association, sickly children are visited and cared for by the District Nurses. During the past year 4 children were looked after in this way.

In the last Annual Report, mention was made of the new Sales Centre in the Health Offices where Babies' Foods, Bottles and other such articles are sold. This Centre has proved to be a great success. A good deal of overcrowding and time spent in the Infant Clinics has been saved as mothers, when doing their ordinary shopping, are able to slip into the Sales Centre and get the baby's food or whatever they may require for the child.

The amount of work undertaken in the Centre may be realized from the following figures:—

The Sales Centre was open for 306 days during the year.			
Money paid into the Cash Office	....	£3,187	5s. 6½d.
Number of packets, tins, bottles of food sold	....	37,027	
" " " " " given free	....	826	
" " pills and tablets sold	....	25,950	
" " " " given free	....	40	
Varieties of articles provided in the centre	....	23	

The Sales Centre is also found useful for collecting payments for such items as dentures (supplied to expectant mothers), splints (ordered in the orthopædic clinic), and in addition certain foods previously provided in the school clinic are now obtained from the Sales Centre.

The cash receipts above include the payments for all these various articles, adjustments to the appropriate Committee accounts being made in the Borough Treasurer's Department.

The Antenatal Clinic increased again in popularity and it was found necessary to hold 3 sessions each week, and 139 sessions were held during the year. A total of 525 women attended, and of these 148 were from the adjoining County Districts. Altogether 3,093 attendances were made.

Some women attend this clinic postnatally and such visits are always encouraged. In 1944 there were 105 such visits by 55 local women and by 10 women from neighbouring districts.

The average attendance per session of all cases was 23. One reason for the increase in popularity of the Borough Antenatal Clinic was the termination of the Antenatal Clinic that had been held at St. Mary's Hospital. It seems unfortunate that it was found necessary to give up this clinic, as it catered particularly for women who were admitted to St. Mary's for their confinement. Thus the staff knew all about the cases before they were admitted. Always a desirable arrangement.

An additional Antenatal clinic was held at the Military Welfare Centre for soldiers' wives. 54 women attended this clinic.

The Infant Welfare Clinics remain 6 in number and the increasing birth-rate accounts to some extent for the increase in the number of attendances during 1943 and 1944. The attendances in 1944 were 10,028 in spite of the fact, already referred to, that babies' foods, etc., are no longer supplied in these clinics.

A very successful Welfare Clinic has for several years been held in the First Aid Post at St. Mary's. With the closing down of this Post it was necessary to make a change and the Centre was moved to Holy Trinity Parish Hall. The shift has made no difference to its popularity.

The Women's Welfare Clinic continues to be held once a month as before. During the year 20 Colchester women and 48 women from neighbouring districts sought the assistance of the lady doctor, making 125 attendances.

The Orthopædic Clinic is held once a quarter with an occasional extra clinic. It chiefly concerns itself with school children, but 47 pre-school children were seen and they made 64 attendances, 18 of them were sent on to the Massage Clinic for special treatment and they made 32 attendances.

The Dental Clinic devotes one afternoon a week to women and little children referred to this clinic from the Antenatal and Infant Welfare Clinics. 43 sessions were held and 49 women and 11 pre-school children attended: these numbers refer only to new cases and do not include those already in hand.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The Sheepen Road Nursery has proved a great success and there can be no doubt after experience of the two Nurseries that Nurseries planned and built for the purpose are far more satisfactory from every point of view than the adapted house.

The great advantages are:—(1) a few large airy and sunny rooms for the children instead of a number of small ones; (2) all the rooms on ground level, rooms upstairs for little children are most inconvenient; (3) the washing and sanitary accommodation central, convenient and upon the same floor as all the children.

Throughout the year both Nurseries have remained practically full and there have always been about 50 children upon the books of each.

The staff at Sheepen Road Nursery has hardly changed and no difficulties have arisen, whereas at Brook Street Nursery there have been a number of changes including changes of the Matron, and these changes have interfered with the settling down of the staff which is so desirable in a Nursery.

There is undoubtedly a continuing need for Nurseries of this type and any suggestions that Nursery Schools can take their place should not be entertained for the following reasons:—

- 1.—The W.T.N. caters for babies under 2 years of age, the N.S. only for children of 2 years and over.
- 2.—The W.T.N. is open all the year round, 6 days a week, the N.S. is closed for 12-14 weeks a year and all day Saturday.
- 3.—Many widows, wives of invalid husbands and unmarried mothers are dependent upon their own work for their living and the care of their children. Without the W.T.N. they could not go out to work for long periods of the year.

Under present conditions either the Nursery Schools should be open six days a week, every week of the year, and admit babies of three months old and upwards, or the War-Time Nurseries should continue to carry out their much needed functions.

MIDWIVES.

The number of midwives practising in the Borough has increased by 2. There are now 35, 10 of these being in private practice.

The agreement with the District Nursing Association under which their Midwives are subsidised to undertake the midwifery of the district continues to run smoothly and satisfactorily.

Midwives Act, 1936.	As Midwives		As Maternity Nurses	
	1943	1944	1943	1944
Births attended by the District Nursing Assoc. Midwives	86	133	31	37
Births attended by Private Midwives	162	144	21	29
Births attended in Institutions	424	549	416	516

It will be noted in the above table that the work of the D.N.A. Midwives continues to increase, whereas that of the private midwives has decreased, but the greatest increase has been in the births attended in Institutions.

Last year, in this Report, it was stated that there were likely to be over 900 midwifery cases in the Borough Institutions, even this figure was an understatement. The above table shows that 1,065 confinements were attended in Institutions in the Borough. They were distributed as follows:—

Distribution of the Institutional Confinements during 1944.

Borough Maternity Home	....	....	656
St. Mary's Hospital	....	....	224
Beverley Road Private Nursing Home	....	....	144
Essex County Hospital	....	....	41

The Emergency Unit was not called out for Midwifery Assistance at all during the year. This is the first time that a year has passed without its help being required since its inception in 1938.

Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

Part VII Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 206-220.

		1943	1944
Children on Register 31st December	....	26	22
Names removed from Register	....	15	15
Additions during the year	....	14	11
Foster Mothers on Register	....	21	

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939.

Number of Notices received	....	....	5
„ „ Children on Register 31st Dec., '44	....	....	4
„ „ „ Removed from Register	....	....	1

One adopted child died during the year.

There is a great need for more Foster Mothers and it is to be hoped that the number which has steadily fallen throughout the war will now begin to increase.

The Maternity and Nursing Homes are the same as last year and all three are conducted in a satisfactory and proper manner.

The Colchester Private Nursing Home, formerly known as the Essex County Nursing Home, has been more and more giving up accommodation to midwifery cases owing to the great difficulty of getting well-trained nursing staff.

Puerperal Pyrexia was notified in 13 cases, St. Mary's Hospital (8), Borough Maternity Home (3), Essex County Hospital (1), and one case was notified from a private house.

Eight cases were sent into the Borough Isolation Hospital and four of these were from neighbouring County Districts.

The great advance made by modern methods of treatment is well shown by the fact that every one of these 17 patients made a good recovery.

BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.

Work of the Home.				1943	1944
Admitted: Borough Patients 331, from County Council Area 287, from Harwich 9, Private outside district cases 37....					
Delivered in the Home	....	....	....	515	664
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only	....	....	....	4	8
Delivered by the Nursing Staff	....	....	....	243	325
„ „ Doctors	....	....	....	268	331
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives Acts					
....	....	....	....	68	107

It is a lucky thing for the mothers of Colchester that the Maternity Home not only appears to possess qualities of elasticity and so its accommodation continues to be extended as need demands but also that this Home has a first class staff of Midwives and Nurses.

Further extensions were under consideration at the end of the year and these have now (July, 1945) been completed and the Home has accommodation for 40 patients.

The above figures are much as usual. There is a reduction in the number of cases of Dysentery and a great reduction in the cases of Measles. Two fresh diseases are added—Epidemic Jaundice and Food Poisoning.

The former was made notifiable in December, 1943, and a special team of workers at Cambridge are trying to elucidate the causes of Epidemic Jaundice which is a new disease in England in epidemic form. Food Poisoning has been notifiable for some years but cases have not been previously mentioned in this table. Those mentioned above were probably due to insufficiently cooked cockles and were not at all serious.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1944.

AUTHORITY SENDING IN CASES	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Measles	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Private Case	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Colchester Port San. Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Colchester Borough ...	57	4	1	—	1	4	1	28	96
Essex County Hospital	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	11
Mental Institutions ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Service Depts.	11	25	—	3	16	—	—	198	253
Wivenhoe U.D.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Brightlingsea U.D. ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Tendring R.D.	17	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	27
Lexden and Wintree R.D. ...	16	1	—	2	2	—	1	2	24
Melford R.D.	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	13
Essex County Council ..	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	30	35
Clacton U.D.	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	22
Sudbury U.D.	13	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	15
Frinton and Walton U.D. ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Harwich Borough ...	34	1	—	—	1	—	1	3	40
Leyton Borough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
West Mersea U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
TOTAL CASES...	186	38	2	9	21	8	6	279	549
DEATHS { COLCHESTER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
{ OTHER DISTRICTS ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	9

Among the "Miscellaneous" group are included Tuberculosis cases (26), Chicken-pox (29), Rubella (81), Whooping Cough (17), Mumps (48), Tonsillitis (5), and one each of Quinsy, Dysentery, Anæmia, Glandular Fever, Pneumonia,

Vincent's Angina, Congenital Debility, Impetigo, Influenza and a Typhoid Carrier.

The total cases admitted to the Hospital decreased by about 100 cases. This decrease was almost wholly due to fewer cases of Scarlet Fever and Measles.

The Deaths were due to:—Advanced Pulmonary Tuberculosis (5), Whooping Cough (2), and one each to Pneumonia, Congenital Debility and a patient with a failing heart who had been sent in as a suspected case of Diphtheria.

Seven of the staff were admitted to the wards, 3 nurses for Tonsillitis, 2 for Chicken-pox, and one each for Rubella and Anæmia.

The work of this hospital continues to be most difficult owing to the shortage of staff, particularly domestic staff. The Matron and senior Sisters have become almost maids-of-all-work in order to keep the hospital open—for months two of the sisters have undertaken the whole of the cooking and great credit and thanks is due to them for their help under most trying circumstances. It can only be hoped that matters may improve in the immediate future.

SCABIES AND INFESTATION BY HEAD-LICE.

At the beginning of the year it was realized that St. Mary's Hospital First Aid Post would not be available after the war as a cleansing station for cases of Scabies (Itch). Towards the end of 1943 a few cases had been treated tentatively by an issue of Benzyl Benzoate and printed instructions were given to patients for its use in their homes. No further treatment was carried out and no disinfection of either bedding or clothing.

From the first this system gave good results and the number of cases so treated was steadily increased. Early in 1944 all cases reporting to the Health Offices were so treated and it can be stated that this method was completely successful and if Benzyl Benzoate is properly applied no other treatment is necessary and no disinfection of clothing or bedding is required. The number of cases for whom a second treatment has appeared desirable has been extremely low.

The incidence of Scabies has fallen steadily since about the middle of 1943. It is difficult to account for this. It is as though an epidemic had arisen, spent itself and died away.

The treatment of head-lice was fully described in the Annual Report for 1943 and there has been no change in the procedure.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
2-4	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
5-9	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
10-14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-19	...	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	...
20-24	...	2	6	...	...	...	1	...	...
25-34	...	4	7	2	3	...	3	...	...
35-44	...	5	4	...	2	...	3	...	...
45-54	...	6	2	...	1	4	...	1	...	
55-64	...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	5	3	...	1	3	1	...	1	
Totals	...	35	28	5	14	7	8	2	1	

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
34.5%	38.1%	28.6%	23.8%	27.7%

Tuberculosis Register.		1942	1943	1944
Pulmonary Cases	....	157	169	176
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	....	79	88	95

The war continues to make itself felt in the Tuberculosis Register as the above figures show. A definite increase of cases must be expected for the next few years.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

“ “ “ 1936, “ 172.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

“ “ “ 1936, “ 176.

No action was required under any of these Sections.

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TRINITY STREET.

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